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<u>Guy Beardsley</u> Printed name of person mailing correspondence	<u>Guy Beardsley</u> Signature of person mailing correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Vincent P. Stanton, Jr. Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: Not yet assigned Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: January 7, 2002 Customer No.: 21559
Title: PROBES FOR VARIANCE DETECTION

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, kindly amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-21 and 23-45, without prejudice, and replace claim 22 with the following amended claim that has been re-written in clean form.

22. (Amended) A method for analyzing a test nucleic acid sample to determine whether it contains a sequence variance, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a nucleic acid probe that is complementary to a sex chromosome or segment thereof;
- (b) forming a duplex between said test nucleic acid sample and said probe; and
- (c) analyzing whether said duplex contains a nucleotide mismatch, thereby determining whether said test nucleic acid sample contains a sequence variance.